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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

7 CRYSTAL B. HARRIS,

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

10 ALLSTATE PROPERTY &
11 CASUALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY,

12 Defendant.

NO: 4:20-CV-5043-TOR

PROTECTIVE ORDER

13 BEFORE THE COURT is the parties' Stipulated Motion for Protective Order.
14 ECF No. 19. The Court reviewed the Stipulated Motion, the files and records
15 herein, and is fully informed. The parties have stipulated to the following and the
16 Court hereby enters the Stipulated Protective Order as follows:

17 **1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

18 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
19 proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted.
20 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the
following Stipulated Protective Order. It does not confer blanket protection on all

disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

“Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged:

- (a) Allstate’s Casualty Claim Handling Manual;
- (b) Allstate’s Claim Operations Manual; and
- (c) Allstate’s First Party Casualty Claim Handling Manual.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation.

Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

1 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
2 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a
3 receiving party may disclose any confidential material only to:

4 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as
5 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the
6 information for this litigation;

7 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house
8 counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
9 litigation, unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced
10 is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so designated;

11 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably
12 necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
13 Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

14 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

15 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the
16 duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining
17 the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential
18 material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any
19 confidential material;

20 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom
disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating
party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or
exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound
by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under
this agreement;

1 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the
2 information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the
3 information.

4 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or
5 discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer
6 with the designating party, to determine whether the designating party will remove
7 the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a
8 motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and
9 confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific
10 confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its
11 motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue.

12 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

13 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
14 Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under
15 this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
16 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for
17 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
18 communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents,
19 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
20 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited.
Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an
improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development
process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose
the designating party to sanctions.

1 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it
2 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must
3 promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

4 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
5 this agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as
6 otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for
7 protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the
8 material is disclosed or produced.

9 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic
10 documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or
11 other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word
12 "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains confidential material. If only a
13 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing
14 party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making
15 appropriate markings in the margins).

16 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings:
17 the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the
18 deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice
19 to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any
20 party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the
deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect
confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial
conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a
prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the
information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or

1 portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the
2 extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

3 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
4 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
5 the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such
6 material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make
7 reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the
8 provisions of this agreement.

7 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

8 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a
9 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a
10 designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable,
11 substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption
12 or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a
13 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
14 original designation is disclosed.

15 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any
16 dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion
17 regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a
18 certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has
19 engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in
20 an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the
date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer
requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without
court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain
confidentiality. The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the

1 designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose
2 (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may
3 expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
4 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

5 **7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**
PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

6 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
7 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
8 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

9 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a
10 copy of the subpoena or court order;

11 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena
12 or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by
13 the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a
14 copy of this agreement; and

15 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
16 pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

17 **8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

18 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
19 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under
20 this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the
designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve
all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons
to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and
Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

1 **9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR**
2 **OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL**

3 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain
4 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other
5 protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal
6 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify
7 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that
8 provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
9 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10 **10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS**

11 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals,
12 each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party,
13 including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may
14 agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

15 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival
16 copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts,
17 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work
18 product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain
19 confidential material.

20 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in
effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders
otherwise.

1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3 I, _____ [print or type
4 full name], of _____
5 [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its
6 entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the
7 United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington on July __,
8 2020 in the case of *Crystal B. Harris v. Allstate Property And Casualty Insurance*
9 *Company, Inc.*, Case No. 4:20-cv-05043-TOR. I agree to comply with and to be
10 bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and
11 acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
12 punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose
13 in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective
14 Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this
15 Order.

16 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District
17 Court for the Eastern District of Washington, for the purpose of enforcing the
18 terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings
19 occur after termination of this action.

20 Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

1 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

2 The District Court Clerk is directed to enter this Order and provide copies to
3 counsel.

4 **DATED August 5, 2020.**



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Thomas O. Rice
THOMAS O. RICE
United States District Judge